

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 189

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Roy D. Simmons, Jr.,  
on the celebration of his eighty-fifth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Roy D. Simmons, Jr., will celebrate his eighty-fifth birthday on September 30, 2007, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the son of Roy D. Simmons, Sr., and Matilda Amos Simmons, Roy Simmons graduated from Richardsville High School and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, his master's degree from George Washington University, and his doctorate from Walden College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons was in a movie theater in Louisville, Kentucky, when the manager stopped the film to announce that Pearl Harbor has been attacked by the Japanese; he volunteered for service in the United States Army Air Force on January 2, 1942, and served during World War II as a pilot in North Africa, Italy, and France; and

WHEREAS, he rendered sterling service as a member of the U.S. Air Force from 1943 until 1967, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel; during that time, he served as a Commandant of ROTC at the University of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Roy Simmons shared his heroic story in *Missions Remembered: Recollections of the World War II Air War*, a book he co-authored; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons was appointed Dean of Students at Massasoit Community College in 1968, a position he maintained with aplomb and acumen until 1981; and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 1943, Roy Simmons was joined in marriage with Glendell M. Whalin, and the couple's blessed union produced four children: Suzanne, Steven, Sandra, and Stanley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons is the proud grandfather of Carrie Zelinka, James Herren, Andrew Herren, Sarah Gilmore, John Grdina, Daniel Simmons, Patrick Simmons, and Nicholas Grdina; he also has five beloved great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, as Mr. Simmons approaches his tenth decade, he is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events; he is currently a Kentucky Colonel and a member of the Middle Tennessee World War II Fighter Pilot Association; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Roy D. Simmons, Jr., on the celebration of his eighty-fifth birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.